FROM THE DEPUTY MAYOR’S DESK

We are, once again, living through a significant moment in history. But the residents of Greater Knysna are no strangers to facing adversity – and facing it together. I extend a heartfelt thank you to all the organisations, NGO’s, NPO’s and private individuals who are supporting our mitigating programmes and relief initiatives. Our community is known for supporting one another and, placed under this extraordinary pressure, our true colours are again shining through.

The Coronavirus pandemic is real and it is spreading. I urge everyone to adhere to the lockdown regulations. I know that this unusual situation is placing us all under a varied spectrum of exceptional stressors, but to make sure that we keep this lockdown as short as possible, we all have to stay indoors. This is the only way to flatten the curve and stop the spread.

It is an unfortunate reality that incidents of domestic violence are increasing during this time. This is completely unacceptable. If you are a victim of such violence, please report it. If you are aware of such incidents taking place, please do not get directly involved, but do report it as soon as possible.

South Africa commemorates Freedom Day on Monday 27 April. I don’t think that the irony of this taking place during lockdown is lost on anyone, but it is important to remember this important date in our history, and to recognise the social, economic and political freedoms it made available to all residents of our beautiful country.

We will enjoy the freedom of moving around without restriction again – but only if we act responsibly now and stay at home. If you must go outside, please adhere to the regulations of social distancing, keep your hands clean and do not touch your face.

Our Contingency and Business Continuity Plan ensures that basic and emergency services are delivered as usual. The safety and security of our residents remain a main focus point and, as the local authority, we are doing what we can to assist those most vulnerable members of our community. Please find details on how you may assist our various efforts elsewhere in this newsletter, or visit www.knysna.gov.za.

This too shall pass. If we break the lockdown, we will undo any good that may have come from it, and render the weeks we’ve already spent locked down useless. While you may feel isolated, remember that we are in this together. And, once the President gives the word, we shall emerge from this lockdown with renewed energy, ready to build Greater Knysna back to health and wealth.

‘till next month,
AUBREY TSENGWA, EXECUTIVE DEPUTY MAYOR

KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY CALLS FOR CONCERTED EFFORT IN IMPLEMENTING FEEDING SCHEMES

With many residents now under added financial pressure and unable to feed their families, the community of Knysna is once again showing its mettle with various food relief programmes being organised.

Knysna Deputy Executive Mayor Aubrey Tsengwa said the various initiatives are heart-warming. “We are all in this together. Lockdown is having a disastrous effect on our economy and most of our lives will be affected by the virus. The efforts of individuals and companies towards helping the most vulnerable show that we have not lost our ability to look out for our fellow human beings. On behalf of Knysna Council, thank you all.”
COVID-19 BUSINESS SUPPORT INFORMATION

This may well be one of the biggest economic challenges we as a nation and town may face. Our unity of purpose has never been more important than now.

Local municipalities are expected to play a key role in Government’s endeavours to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although our primary focus is to ensure that we can provide residents with uninterrupted essential and emergency services, we are aware of the direct effect that the lockdown is having on the majority of businesses in our area.

To help alleviate the pressure, a number of public and privately funded business support schemes have been launched with varying qualifying criteria, focus areas and deadlines for applications. We encourage all businesses to regularly check the business support section on our website for updated information at: https://www.knysna.gov.za/news/covid-19-corona-virus/.

The main schemes offered by the National Department of Small Business Development include a debt finance relief scheme, business growth resilience facility, and COVID finance relief scheme. Accessing these schemes require registration on https://smmesa.gov.za/. Electronic application forms and guidelines can also be accessed on this portal.

Details for employees and employers that want to apply to the COVID-19 Temporary Employee/Employer Relief Scheme (TERS) can be accessed on the Department of Labour & Employment website: http://www.labour.gov.za/easy-guide-for-employers-on-covid19.

The Tourism Relief Fund provides once-off capped grant assistance to Small Micro and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMMEs) in the tourism value chain to ensure their sustainability during and post the implementation of government measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. Application details for the fund can be accessed here: https://www.tourism.gov.za/CurrentProjects/Tourism_Relief_Fund_for_SMMEs/Pages/Tourism_Relief_Fund_for_SMMEs.aspx

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development & Land Reform is currently calling for applications for assistance to affected smallholder farmers. The application forms can be accessed here: https://www.drdlr.gov.za/sites/Internet/COVID19/Forms/AllItems.aspx
To help companies understand the support available to them, the Western Cape Government launched a fund location tool called the COVID-19 Support Finder. This tool is available at the COVID-19 Content Centre on www.supportbusiness.co.za.

**INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT REVIEW OF THE KNYSNA INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN, MUNICIPAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AS WELL AS 2020/2021 MTREF DRAFT BUDGET**

The 2020/2021 Draft budget, the 2020/2021 Draft Review Knysna Integrated Development Plan and Municipal Spatial Development Framework (MSDF) is available for public comment.

Representations regarding the draft budget, if any, must be lodged in writing with the acting municipal manager at budget@knysna.gov.za

Comments on the IDP and SDF must be submitted in writing at idp@knysna.gov.za All comments must be submitted Thursday, 7 May 2020. Please note that we will only be able to assist residents unable to read or write once the lockdown has been lifted.

**APPLICATION FOR SENIOR CITIZEN RATES AND SERVICES REBATE OR A REBATE FOR PERSONS DECLARED MEDICALLY UNFIT FOR WORK**

Residents are hereby advised that, subject to certain conditions, applications may be made for a Senior Citizen Rates and Services Rebate by those aged 60 years or older, or a rebate where persons have been declared medically unfit to work. Persons earning more than R5 400 but less than R15 000 per month may qualify for a rebate of between 5% - 80% on rates.

Persons with a pensionable income between R15 001 to R40 000 may also register for a rebate on services only, subject to Council approval of the budget.

Closing date for applications: 31 May 2020. Please note that we will only be able to assist residents unable to read or write once the lockdown has been lifted.

**INDIGENT REGISTRATION AND SOCIAL REBATES ON RATES AND SERVICE CHARGES**

Notice is hereby given that owners of rateable properties may, subject to certain conditions, apply for a rebate on annual rates and service charges until 31 May 2020. Please note that we will only be able to assist residents unable to read or write once the lockdown has been lifted.

Applications must meet the following criteria:
1. the combined gross household income must not exceed three (3) times the Government Social Pension;
2. the application must be accompanied by a certified copy of ID, proof of income or affidavit of unemployment; and
3. in the case of deceased persons, a death certificate and electricity prepaid token must be submitted.

**WATER RESTRICTIONS**

Level 1 water restrictions apply, which allow:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>3 days</th>
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<td><strong>SUMMER</strong></td>
<td><strong>WINTER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6–7 pm until end May</td>
<td>5–6 pm from June to Nov</td>
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Mon | Wed | Fri – Even Street No. | Tue | Thu | Sat – Odd Street No.

Residents should still obtain permission from the Director: Technical Services before filling swimming pools and undertaking maintenance.

Please report water leaks and water abuse to 044 302 6331 (o/h) or 060 998 7000.
AMENDMENTS TO COVID-19 REGULATIONS

During a media briefing by members of the National Command Council (NCC) in Pretoria on Thursday, 16 April, the rules pertaining to the second phase of the South African lockdown were set out.

Knysna Executive Deputy Mayor, Aubrey Tsengwa explained: “The second phase of South Africa’s national Covid-19 lockdown will be under rules only slightly altered from the initial hard lockdown, and these were stipulated by National Government earlier today, Thursday, 16 April.”

THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS WERE AMENDED:

• Cooked food will still not be allowed to be sold during lockdown
• Still a total alcohol ban
• Cigarette sales remain banned
• Artisans now allowed to do emergency repair work for essential services include: locksmiths; glaziers; roof repairers; plumbers; electricians
• Some hardware and car-part stores will be able to open – but only for emergency supplies. Essential goods will now include the hardware, components and supplies needed by tradespeople for emergency repairs at homes. Hardware and supplies needed by institutions deemed essential, such as hospitals, may also be sold same goes for suppliers of car parts for any vehicle used by a person engaged in essential services work.
• Stores selling hardware products and vehicle components
• More call centres may open, including those for retailers (and their store cards). The new regulations stipulate that call centres “necessary to provide health, safety, social support, government and financial services, debt restructuring for consumers of retailers, and access to short-term insurance policies as a result of reduced income or loss of income” may operate.
• The rule that goods imported from high-risk SARS-Cov-2 countries must be sanitised in port has been revoked.
• Some mines will be allowed to reopen under strict conditions including private transport for mineworkers.

Tsengwa concluded by thanking all Greater Knysna residents for adhering to the strict regulations of the lockdown and said: “Our Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said during the briefing that when we do stop the lockdown, we cannot do it abruptly - that today it’s complete lockdown and tomorrow it’s open completely. We have to phase in, so that there is an orderly move towards normality. I ask each of us to adhere to the rules and regulations in place to ensure the safety of all, especially our vulnerable. Stay at home not only for your sake, but also for the sake of your loved ones.”

The public can view updates on the lockdown on the municipal website www.knysna.gov.za or the provincial and national government websites.